

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A timing ~~control unit for controlling controller to control~~ a timing for performing a desired operation directly or indirectly ~~of on~~ a belt-like member at least at two operating positions including a first operating position and a second operating position separated in a circumferential direction of the belt-like member driven by a drive roll, a distance between the first operating position and the second operating position being set to a multiple of a perimeter of the drive roll, the timing ~~control unit controller~~ comprising:

a clock ~~generation part for generating generator to generate~~ a clock signal having a constant period in accordance with a rotation of the drive roll; and

a ~~count part for counting counter to count~~ the clock signal generated by the clock ~~generation part generator~~, wherein

the ~~count part counter~~ counts the clock signal generated by the clock ~~generation part generator~~ for a number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll, thereby an operation timing at the second operating position is synchronized with an operation timing at the first operating position.

2. (Currently Amended) A timing ~~control unit controller~~ according to claim 1, wherein the ~~count part counter~~ starts to count the clock signal generated by the clock ~~generation part generator~~ when an operation at the first operating position starts, and an operation at the second operating position starts when the ~~count part counter~~ counts the clock signal for the number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll.

3. (Currently Amended) A timing ~~control unit controller~~ according to claim 1, further comprising:

a base-clock ~~generation part for generating generator to generate~~ a base-clock signal at a period shorter than the clock ~~generation part generator~~; and

a base-clock ~~count part for counting counter to count~~ a number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock ~~generation part generator~~ during the period from a first operation timing signal for deciding the operation timing at the first operating position to the clock signal generated by the clock ~~generation part generator~~, wherein

a count value of the base-clock ~~count part counter~~ is used ~~for correcting to correct an operation timing at the second operating position~~ a timing difference between the first operation timing signal and the clock signal generated by the clock ~~generation part~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A timing ~~control unit controller~~ according to claim 1, further comprising:

a base-clock ~~generation part for generating generator to generate~~ a base-clock signal at a period shorter than the clock ~~generation part generator~~;

a base-clock ~~count part for counting counter to count~~ a number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock ~~generation part generator~~ during the period from a first operation timing signal for deciding the operation timing at the first operating position to the clock signal generated by the clock ~~generation part generator~~;

a memory ~~part for storing to store~~ the number of the base-clocks counted by the base-clock ~~count part counter~~; and

a decrement ~~count part for decrementing counter to decrement~~ a value of the base-clock stored in the memory ~~part~~ by the number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock ~~generation part generator~~, wherein

the ~~count part counter~~ starts to count the clock signal in accordance with a first operation timing signal for deciding the operation timing at the first operating position, and the base-clock ~~count part counter~~ counts the number of the base-clocks generated by the base-

clock ~~generation part~~ generator during the period between the first operation timing signal and the clock signal to thereby store the counted number of the base_clocks in the memory part, and

the decrement ~~count part~~ counter starts to decrement the counted number of the base_clocks stored in the memory part when the ~~count part~~ counter counts the clock signal for the number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll, and delivers a second operation timing signal for deciding the operation timing at the second operating position when a ~~count value~~ counter of the decrement ~~count part~~ counter becomes zero.

5. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus for forming a color image by successively forming toner images of different colors on a belt-like image bearing member at least at two image forming portions including a first image forming portion and a second image forming portion separated in a circumferential direction of the belt-like image bearing member driven by a drive roll, a distance between the first image forming portion and the second image forming portion being set to a multiple of a perimeter of the drive roll, the color image forming apparatus comprising:

a clock ~~generation part for generating~~ generator to generate a clock signal having a constant period in accordance with a rotation of the drive roll; and

a ~~count part for counting~~ counter to count the clock signal generated by the clock ~~generation part~~ generator, wherein

the ~~count part~~ counter counts the clock signal generated by the clock ~~generation part~~ generator for a number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll, thereby an image formation timing at a second image forming position in the second image forming portion is synchronized with an image formation timing at a first image forming position in the first image forming portion.

6. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the ~~count-part-counter~~ starts to count the clock signal generated by the clock ~~generation-part-generator~~ when image formation at the first image forming position starts, and image formation at the second image forming position starts when the ~~count-part-counter~~ counts the clock signal for the number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll.

7. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising;

a base-clock ~~generation-part-for-generating-generator to generate~~ a base-clock signal at a period shorter than the clock-~~generation-part generator~~; and

a base-clock ~~count-part-for-counting-counter to count~~ a number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock ~~generation-part-generator~~ during the period from a first image formation timing signal for deciding the image formation timing at the first image forming position to the clock signal generated by the clock-~~generation-part generator~~, wherein

a count value of the base-clock ~~count-part-counter~~ is used for correcting a timing difference between the first image formation timing signal and the clock signal generated by the clock-~~generation-part~~ an operation timing at the second image forming position.

8. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising;

a base-clock ~~generation-part-for-generating-generator to generate~~ a base-clock signal at a period shorter than the clock-~~generation-partgenerator~~ ;

a base-clock ~~count-part-for-counting-counter to count~~ a number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock ~~generation-part-generator~~ during the period from a first image formation timing signal for deciding the image formation timing at the first image forming position to the clock signal generated by the clock-~~generation-part generator~~;

a memory ~~part for storing to store~~ the number of the base_clocks counted by the base_clock ~~count part counter~~; and

a decrement ~~count part for decrementing counter to decrement~~ a value of the base_clock stored in the memory ~~part~~ by the number of the base_clocks generated by the base_clock ~~generation part generator~~, wherein

the ~~count part counter~~ starts to count the clock signal in accordance with the first image formation timing signal for deciding the image formation timing at the first image forming position, and the base_clock ~~count part counter~~ counts the number of the base_clocks generated by the base_clock ~~generation part generator~~ during the period between the first image formation timing signal and the clock signal to thereby store the counted number of the base_clocks in the memory ~~part~~, and

the decrement ~~count part counter~~ starts to decrement the counted number of the base_clocks stored in the memory ~~part~~ when the ~~count part counter~~ counts the clock signal for the number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll, and delivers a second image formation timing signal for deciding the image formation timing at the second image forming position when a count value of the decrement ~~count part counter~~ becomes zero.